

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 151344Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1424

INFO AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 324

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PEACE WOMEN CONFRONT UDA

REF: (A) BELFAST 319 (B) BELFAST 285

1. WAVE OF VEHICLE HIJACKINGS AND BURNINGS IN PROTESTANT AREAS BELFAST AND SUBURBS BEGAN SEPTEMBER 13 AND SUBSIDED LATE SEPTEMBER 14. IS VERY REMINISCENT OF EVENTS IN CATHOLIC AREAS LAST MONTH. SEPTEMBER 13 THERE SOME 23 VEHICLES HIJACKED AND 12 BURNED INCLUDING SOME BUSES. SEPTEMBER 14, THREE BUSES HIJACKED. THESE VEHICLES USED TO BLOCKADE STREETS. IT BELIEVED ULSTER DEFENCE ASSOCIATION (UDA) INSPIRED THIS ACTION COMMITTED LARGELY BY TEENAGERS AND CHILDREN AS PROTEST AGAINST ALLEGED BRUTALITY IN LONG KESH/MAZE PRISON. SOME HI-JACKINGS WERE ACCOMPLISHED AGAINST USUAL BELFAST BACKGROUND OF STONING OF TROOPS. THERE ALSO WAVE OF BOMB HOAXES. ULSTER FREEDOM FIGHTERS (UFF). A SHADOWY PROTESTANT GROUP OF KILLERS AND BOMBERS, HAS CALLED FOR PRISON GUARDS TO WITHDRAW SERVICES FROM LOYALIST COMPOUNDS AT LONG KEHS/MAZE OR ELSE GUARDS WILL BECOME "LEGITIMATE TARGETS". DEEPER ISSUE FOR ALL PARAMILITARY GROUPS IS APPROACHING END TO SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS. FIRST CONVICTION AND DENIAL OF STATUS IS EXPECTED ANY DAY.

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2. SOME ONE HUNDRED WOMEN BLOCKED SHANKILL ROAD SEPTEMBER 14 TO PREVENT "BLACK TAXIS" FROM OPERATING. THESE LONDON-TYPE TAXICABS HAVE FIXED RUNS AND ARE USED IN BOTH COMMUNITIES AS ALTERNATIVES TO MORE EXPENSIVE AND LESS FREQUENT BUS SERVICE. IT BELIEVED FALLS ROAD AND ANDERSONSTOWN BLACK TAXIS ARE OPERATED BY OR AT LEAST CONTRIBUTE TO PROVISIONAL IRA. PEACE WOMEN WHO BLOCKED SHANKILL YESTERDAY CLAIMED UDA OPERATES TAXIS THERE AND SO WOMEN REFUSED TO LET THEM RUN WHEN BUSES WERE UNABLE TO. WOMEN WERE TARGETS OF OBSCENITIES INSULTS, JEERS, EGGS, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. THEIR BLOCKAGE WAS TEMPORARILY DISRUPTED BY A BOMB HOAX AS A PARCEL WAS PLACED NEAR THEM. THEY PERSISTED HOWEVER AND THEIR EFFORTS MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN CAUSING VIOLENCE TO SUBSIDE. THERE ONE REPORT UDA HAS AGREED CALL OFF VIOLENT ACTS FOR 24 HOURS IF WOMEN WILL JOIN PROTEST AGAINST PRISON BRUTALITY. WOMEN WHO WERE INTERVIEWED DURING PICKET ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR FRIGHT BUT SAID ONLY REGRET WAS THAT THEY HAD NOT BEGUN ACTION ON FIRST DAY. SPICER

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